

# Seasonal Risk Analysis

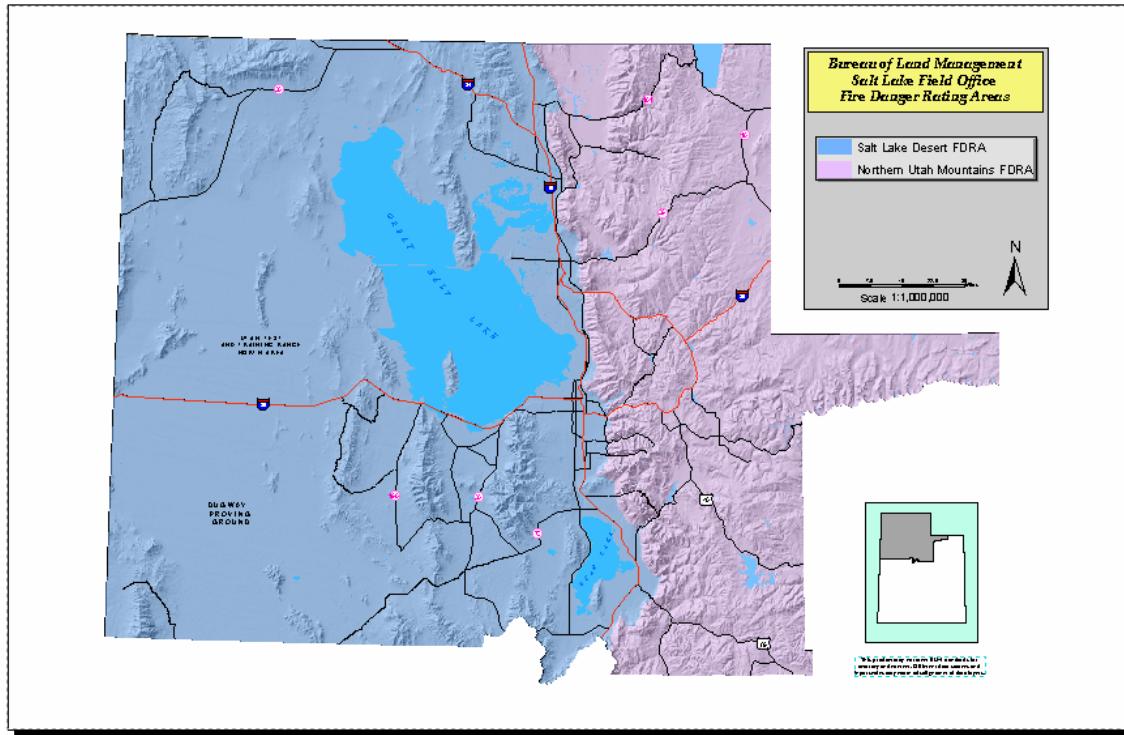
July 2004

Bureau of Land Management  
Salt Lake Field Office



Prepared by:

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Fire Management Officer  
Fire Behavior Analyst



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## **SYNOPSIS**

The drought in the interior West is forecasted to persist through summer, as the water supply situation stays the same or worsens in coming months due to below-normal snow accumulation during the winter season. A hot, dry July combined with the current fuel conditions will likely result in critical fire potential in Northern Utah. Historically, July and August have the greatest fire occurrence. The summer thunderstorm season will likely bring very little precipitation and only short-term relief for critically dry fuels; the long-term hydrological drought should persist at least until next winter's snow season.

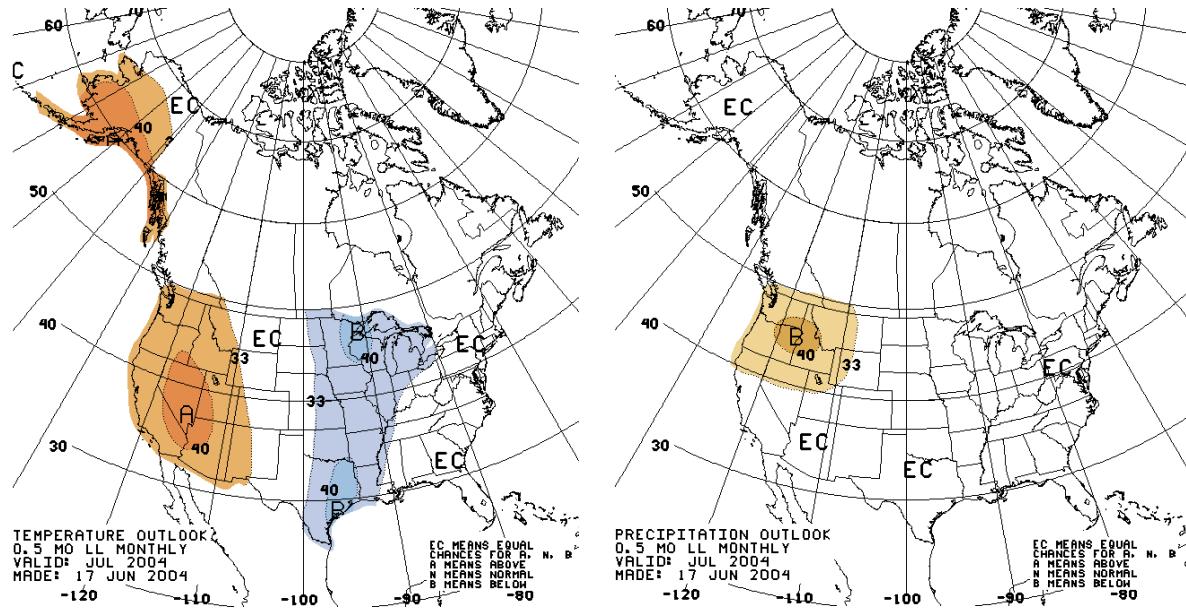
The combination of continuing drought and an increase of drought stressed trees and brush has resulted in a greater potential for large wildfires in Northern Utah. Some isolated Pinyon/Juniper stands have noticeable "die-back" and tree mortality in various locations throughout the Field Office, including urban/interface areas of Utah and Tooele County. Late March and April storms have resulted in an abundance of annual grass (Cheatgrass) germination. Already, the continuity of fine fuels has contributed to large fire activity in the western deserts of Utah.

The potential for human-caused fires is high due to the population based in Northern Utah; over 85% of the Utah population resides within the boundaries of the Salt Lake Field Office. Additional public education/outreach will be needed to educate and mitigate the above normal risk of wildland fires caused by the public

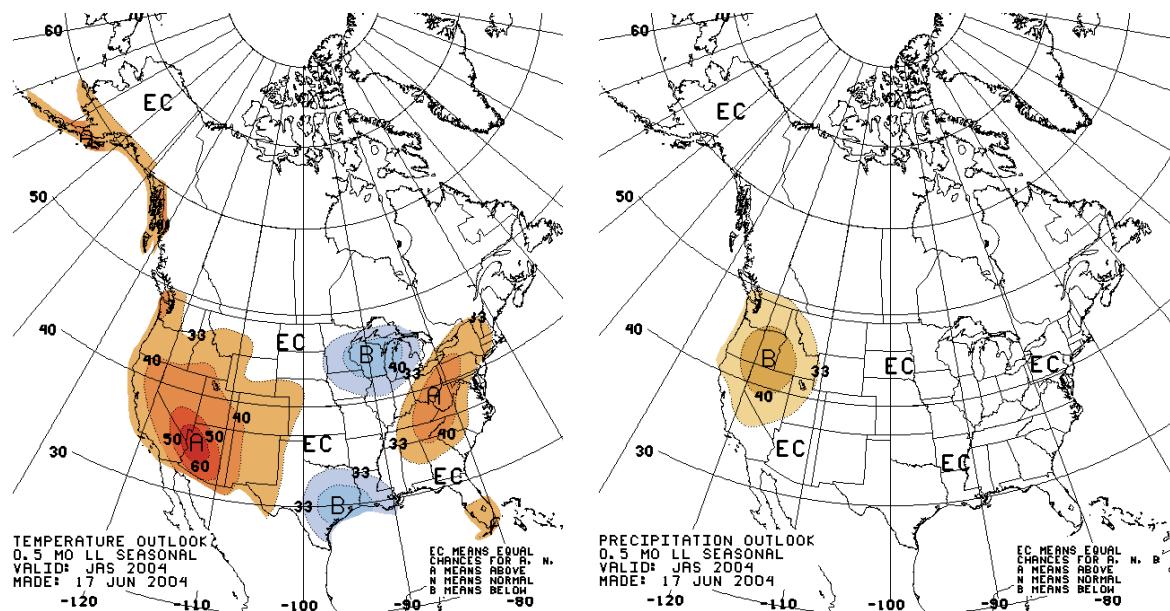
Climatologically, the outlook is dismal Additional resources will be necessary to mitigate the potential losses due to unusually severe fire conditions.

## WEATHER & CLIMATOLOGY

### 30-day Outlook (July)



### 90-day Outlook (July-August-September)

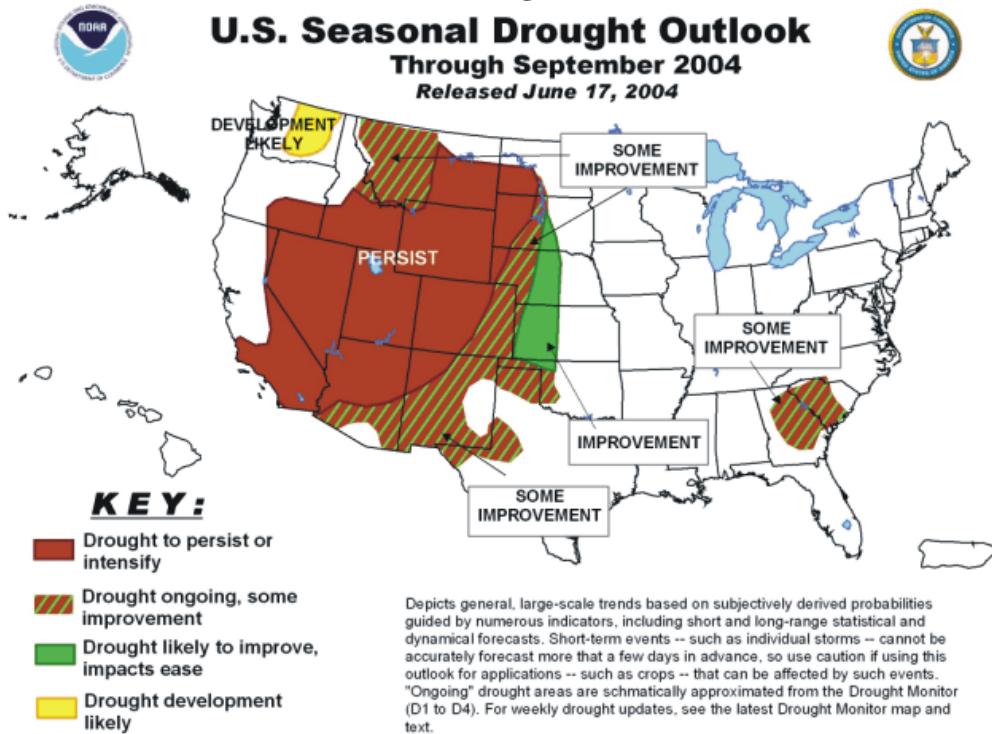


## Seasonal Drought Outlook

### U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Through September 2004

Released June 17, 2004

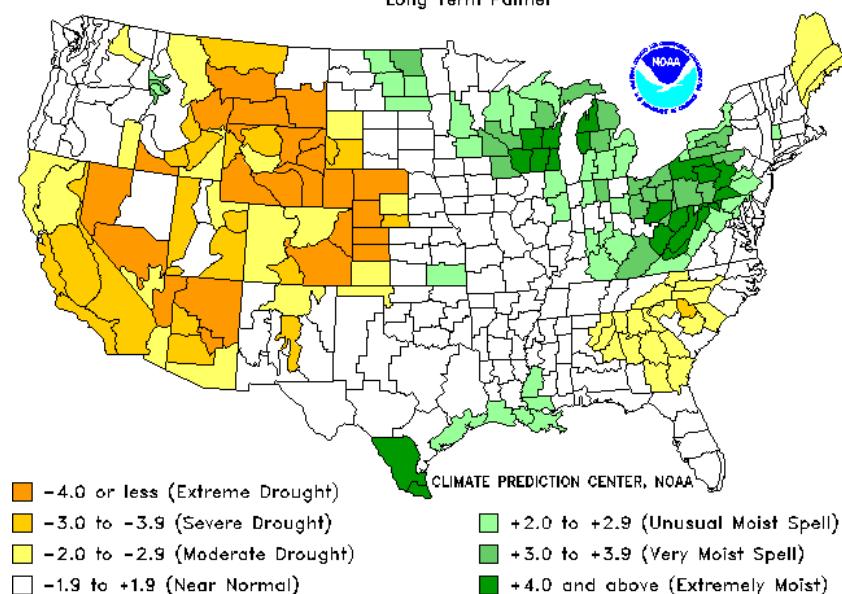


## Palmer Drought Severity Index

### Drought Severity Index by Division

Weekly Value for Period Ending 12 JUN 2004

#### Long Term Palmer



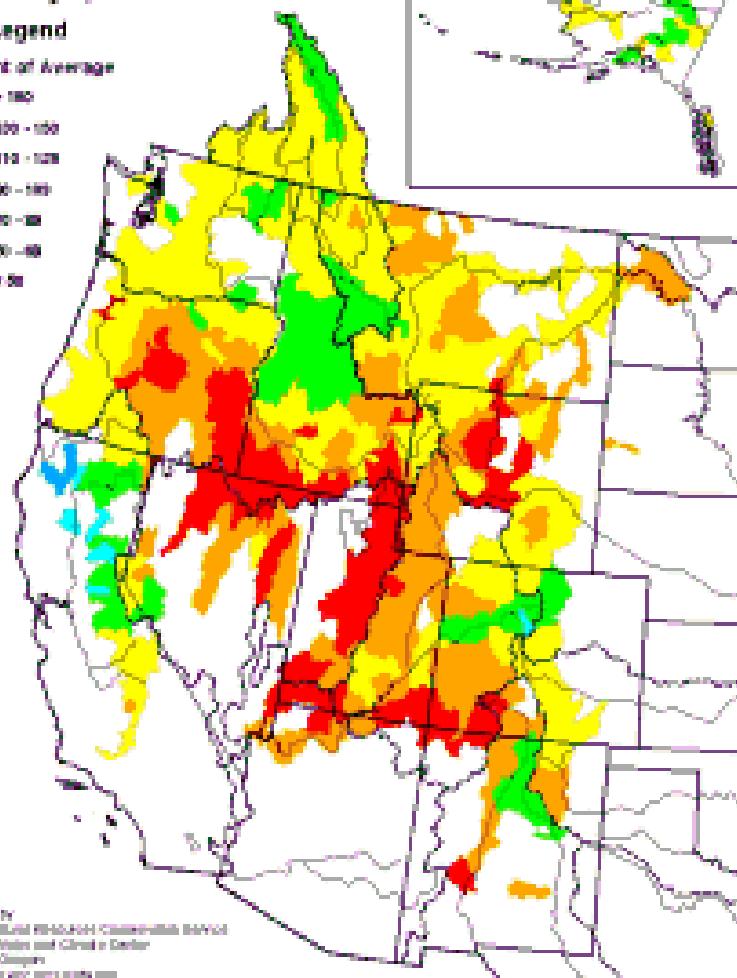
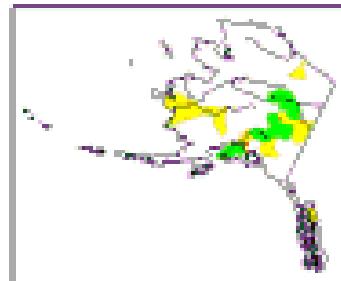
## Streamflow Forecast

**Spring and Summer  
Streamflow Forecasts  
as of May 1, 2003**

**Legend**

Percent of Average

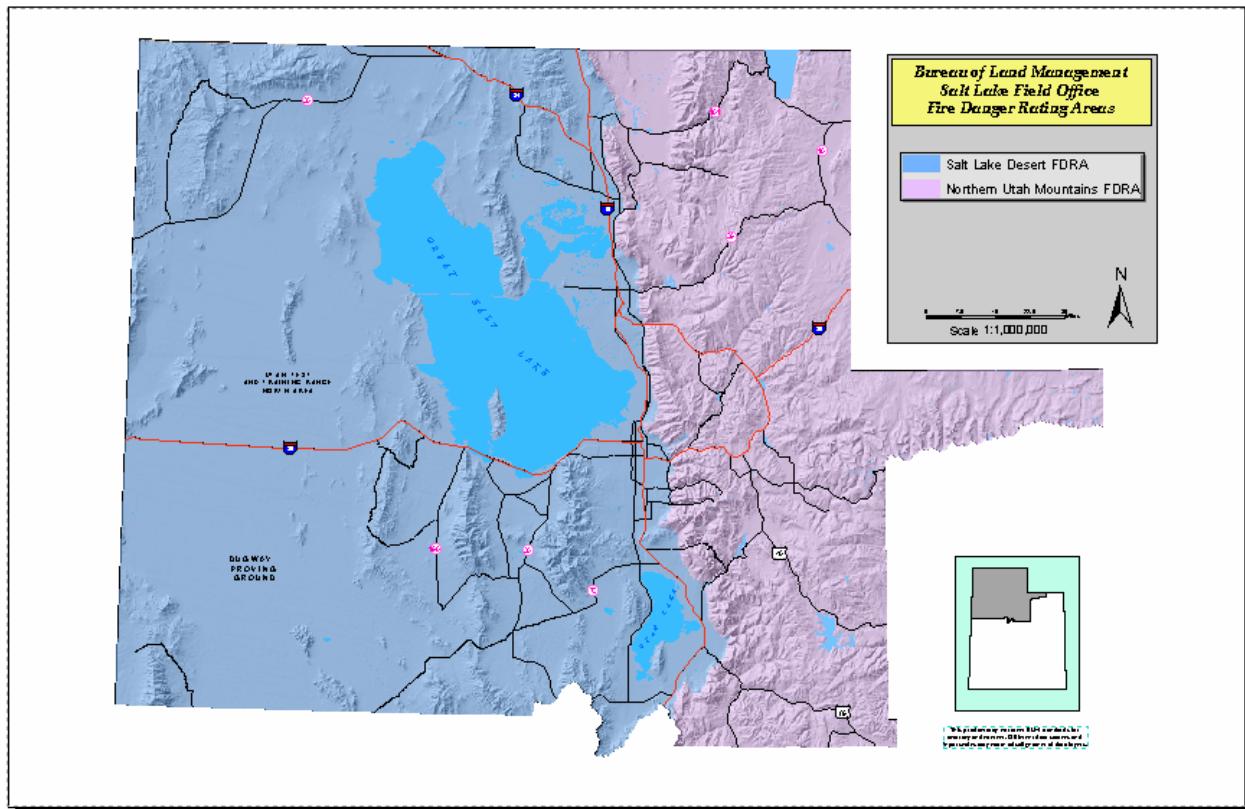
■	> 100
■	100 - 100
■	100 - 100
■	90 - 100
■	80 - 90
■	70 - 80
■	60 - 70
■	50 - 60
■	40 - 50
■	< 50



Prepared by:  
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service  
National Water and Climate Center  
Predictive Capabilities  
<http://water.usda.gov/predict>

## FUEL CONDITIONS

### Fire Danger Rating Areas (FDRA)



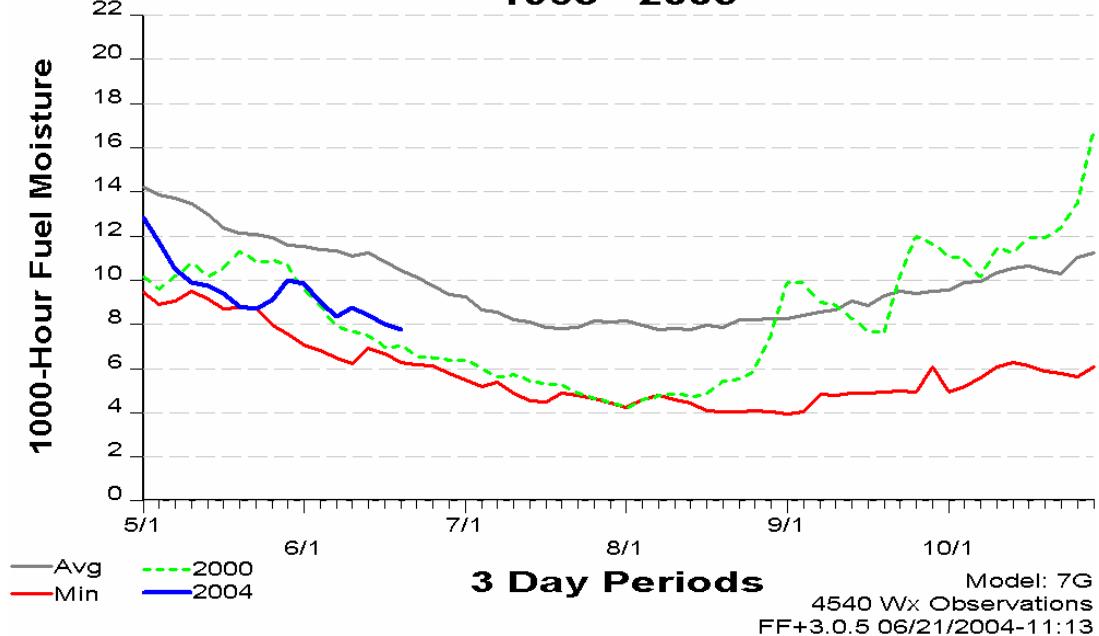
Fire Danger Rating Areas (FDRAs) have been delineated in Northern Utah by an interagency group representing the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, and State of Utah. Two FDRAs have been identified: Salt Lake Desert FDRA in northwest Utah and the Northern Utah Mountains FDRA in northeast Utah. These areas were delineated based upon homogeneous fuels, climate, and topographical characteristics.

## Dead Fuel Moisture

### 1000-Hour Fuel Moisture

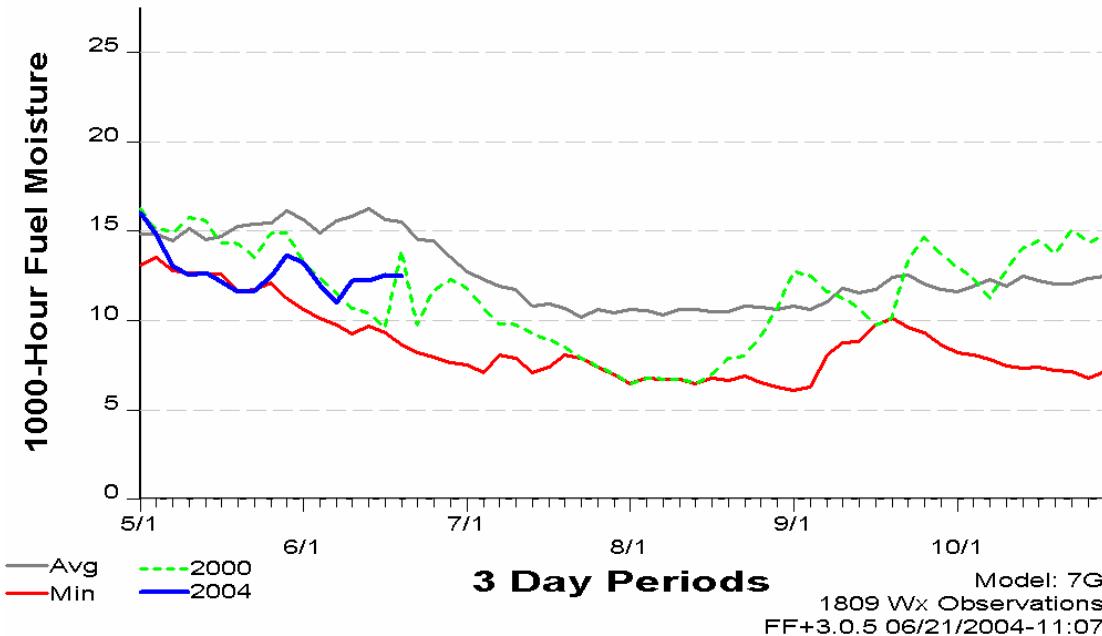
Salt Lake Desert FDRA

**SIG - Salt Lk Desert  
1965 - 2003**

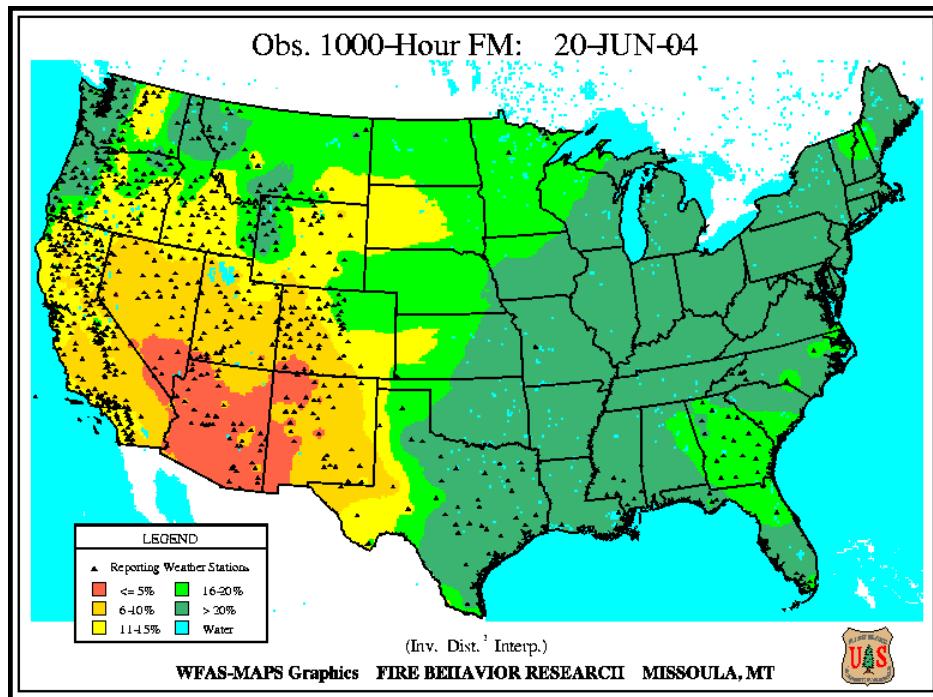


Northern Utah Mountains FDRA

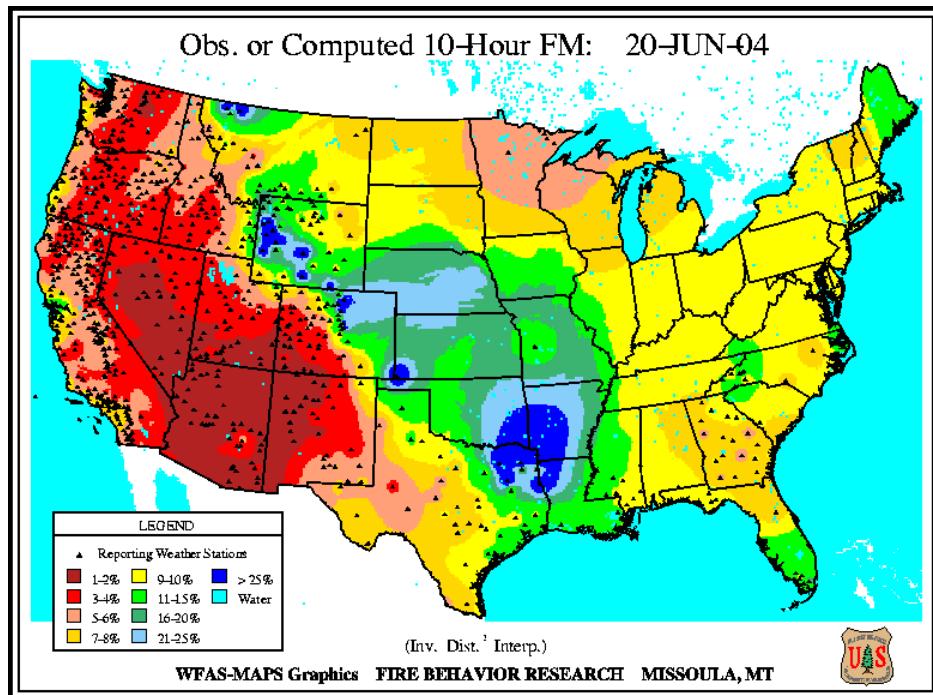
**SIG - NUtah Mtns  
1993 - 2003**



## United States Map

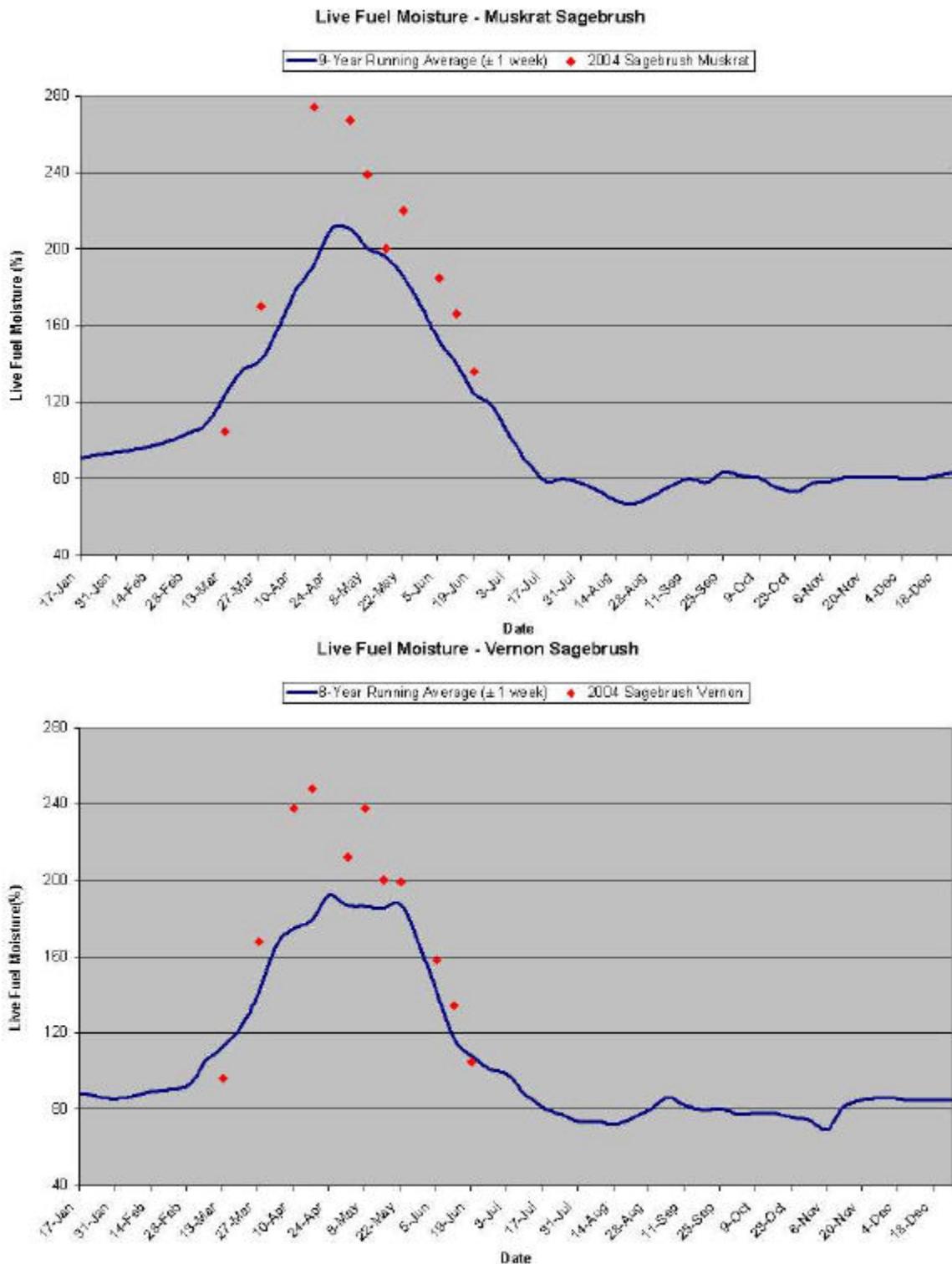


## 10-Hour Fuel Moisture



## Live Fuel Moisture

### Sagebrush

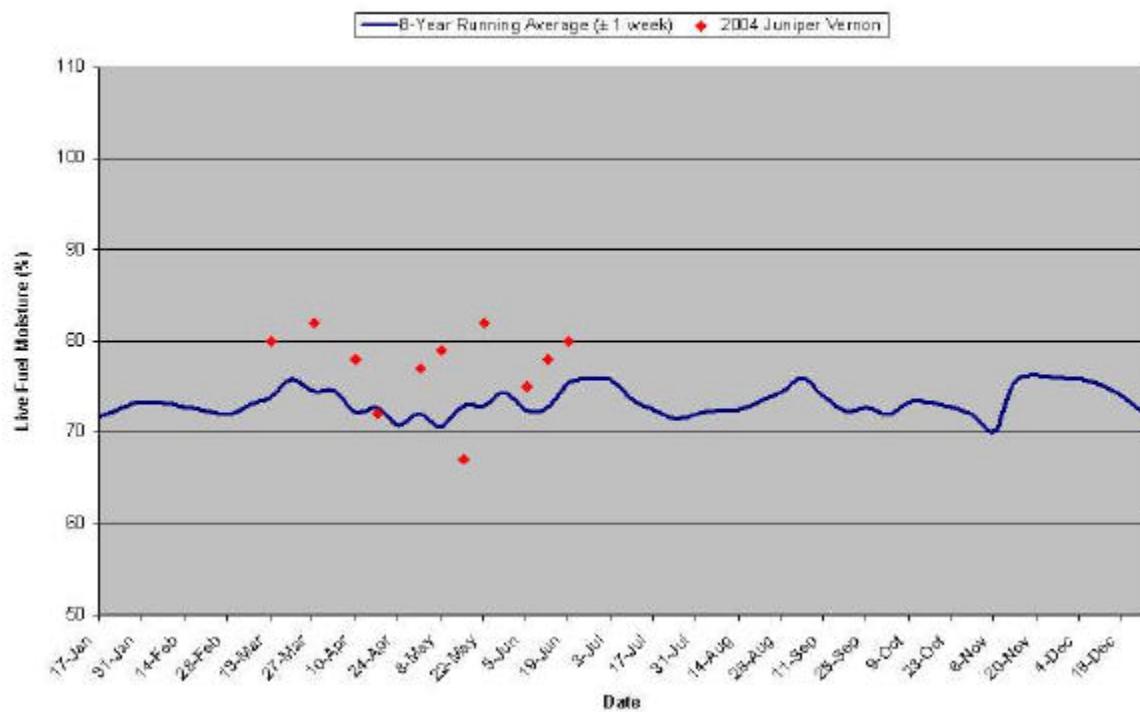


## Juniper

Live Fuel Moisture - Muskrat Juniper

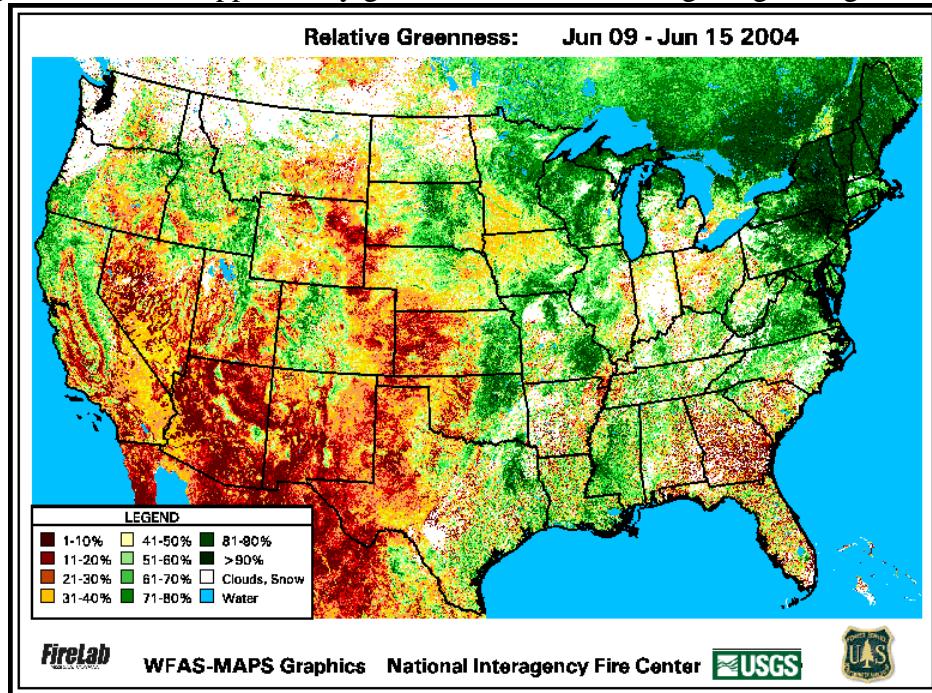


Live Fuel Moisture - Vernon Juniper

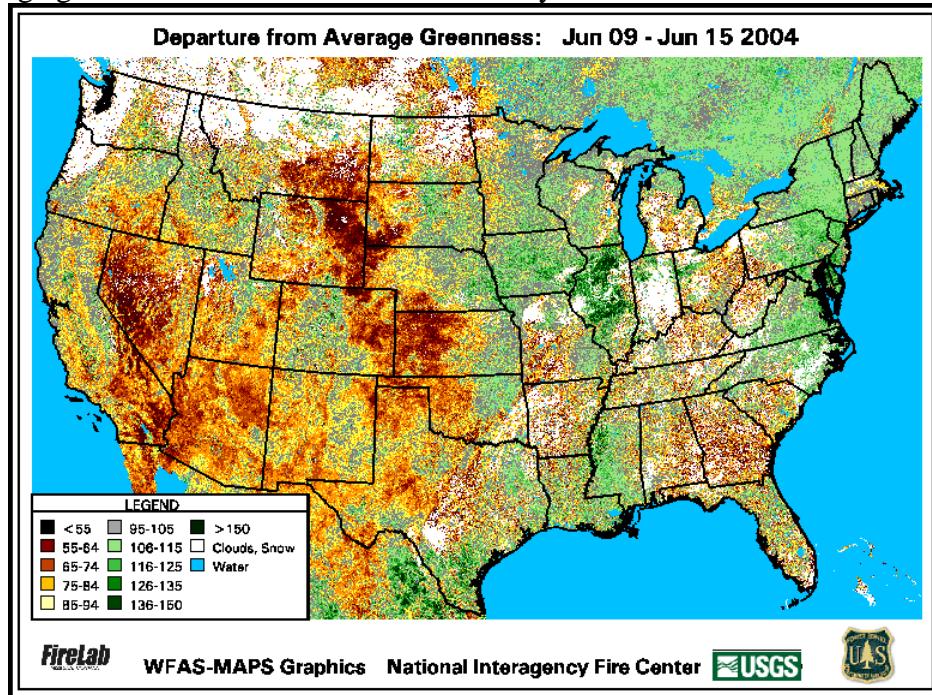


## Greenness

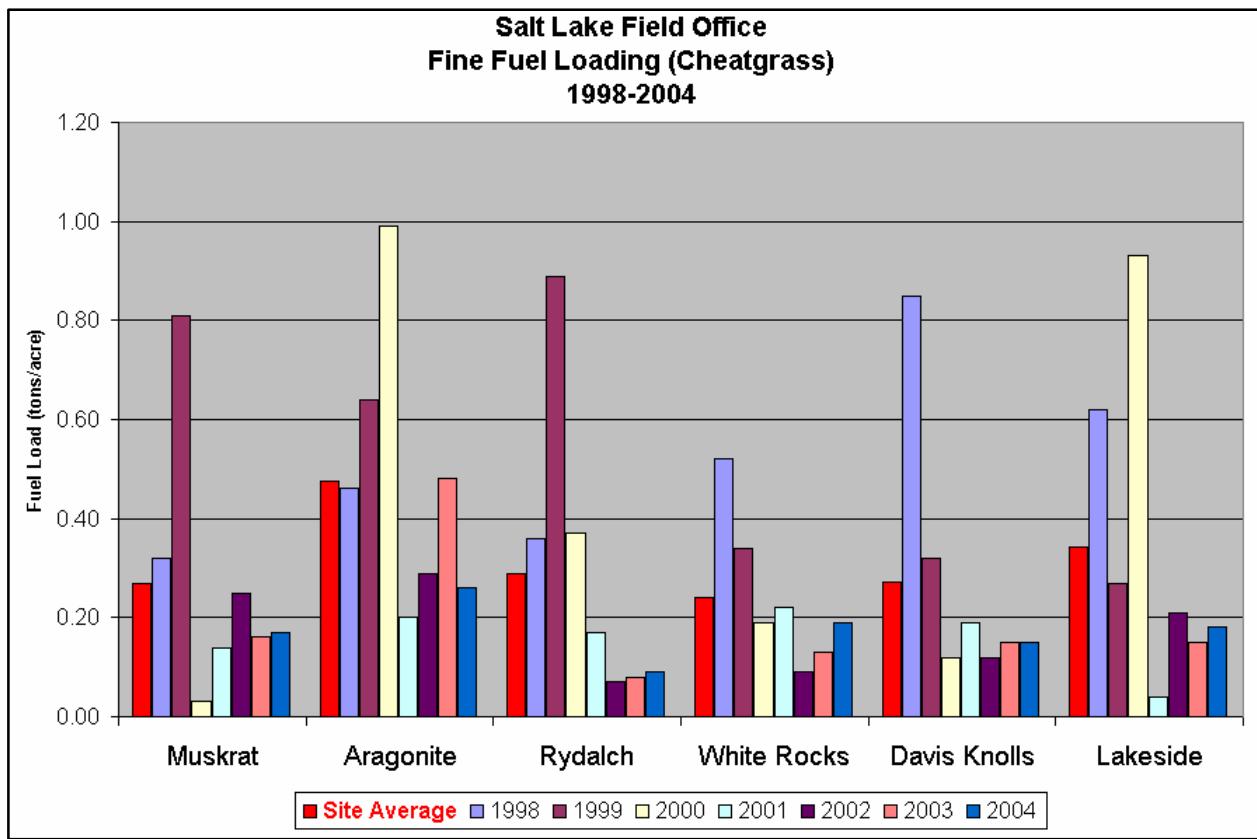
**Relative Greenness:** portrays how green the vegetation is compared to how green it has been historically (1989-2003). Because each pixel is normalized to its own historical range, all areas can appear fully green at some time during the growing season.



**Departure from Average Greenness:** portrays how green each pixel is compared to its average greenness for the current week of the year based on 1989-2003 data.



## Fine (1-hour) Fuel Loading

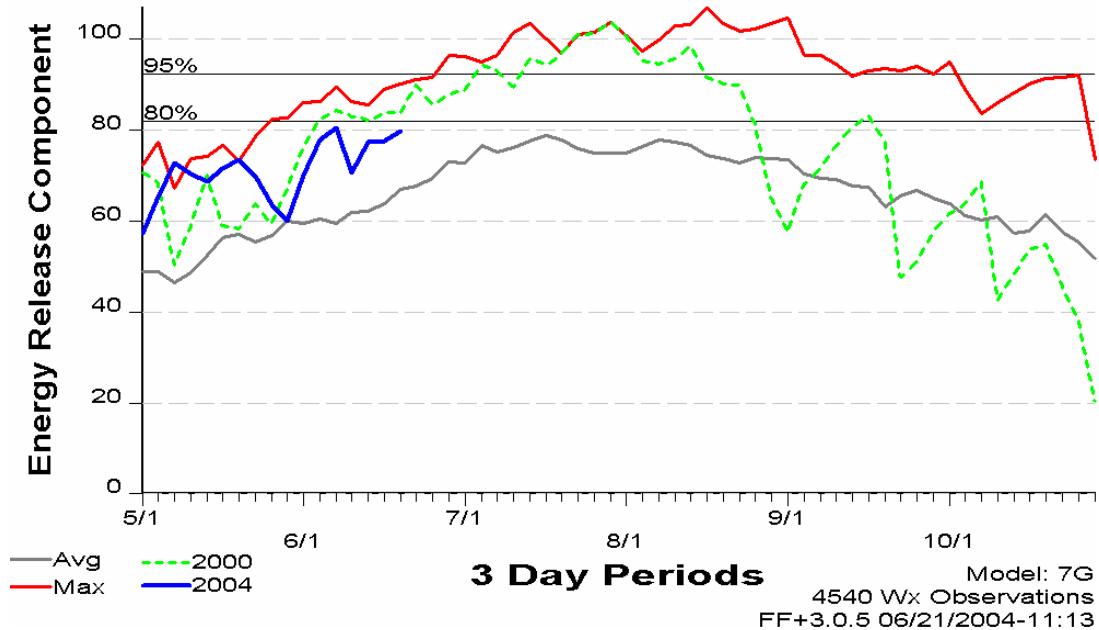


## National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS)

### Energy Release Component (ERC)

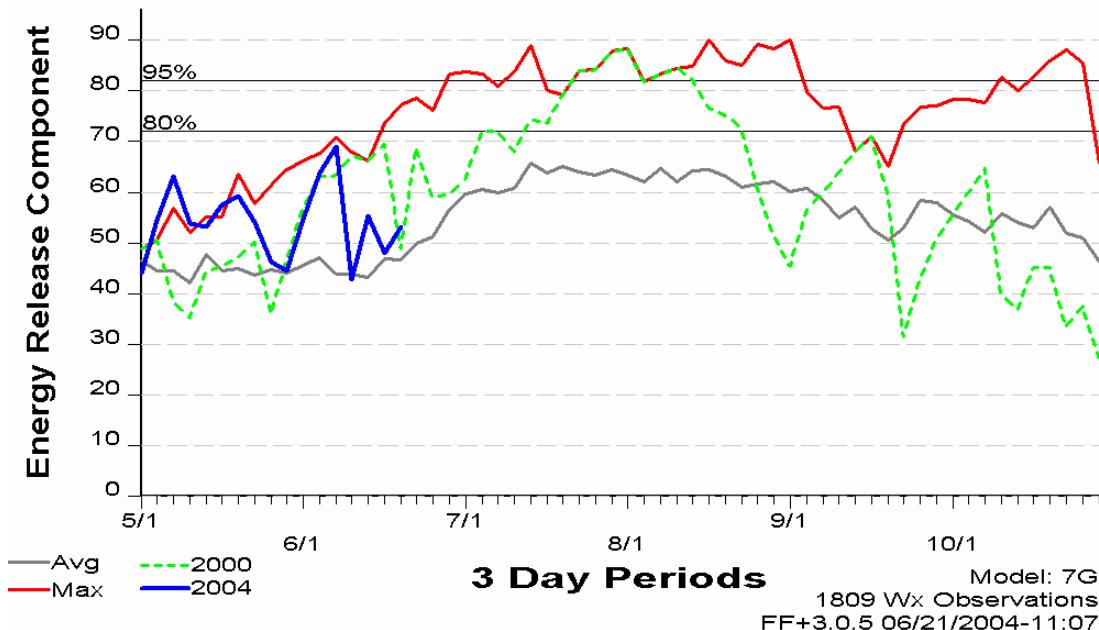
#### Salt Lake Desert FDRA

**SIG - Salt Lk Desert  
1965 - 2003**

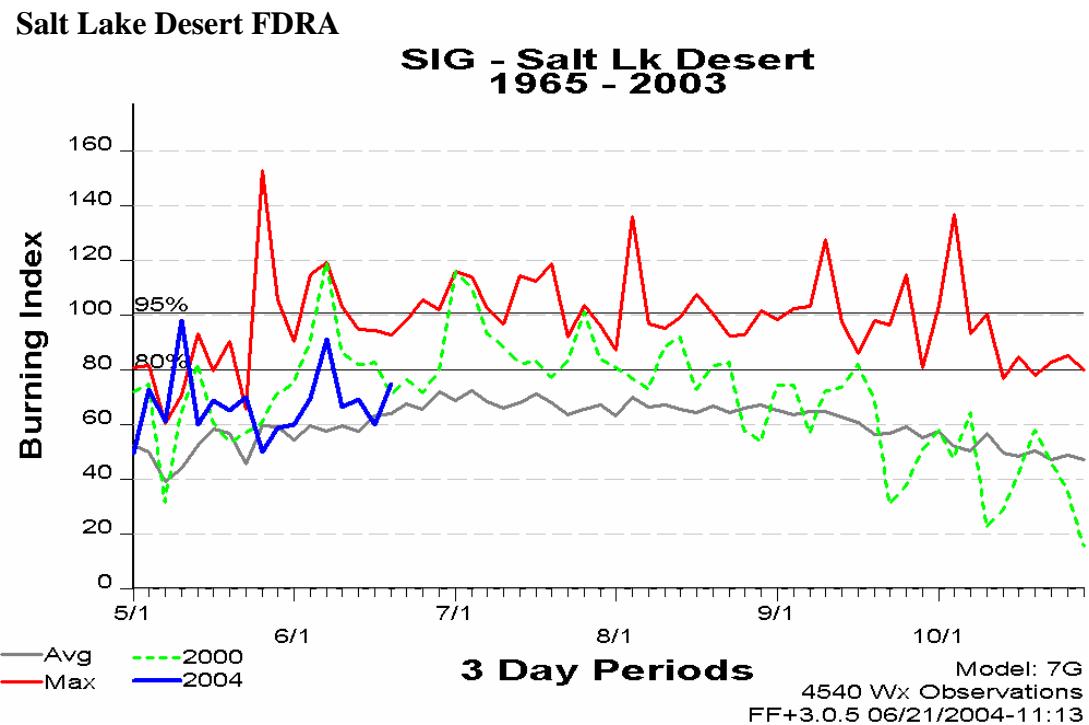


#### Northern Utah Mountains FDRA

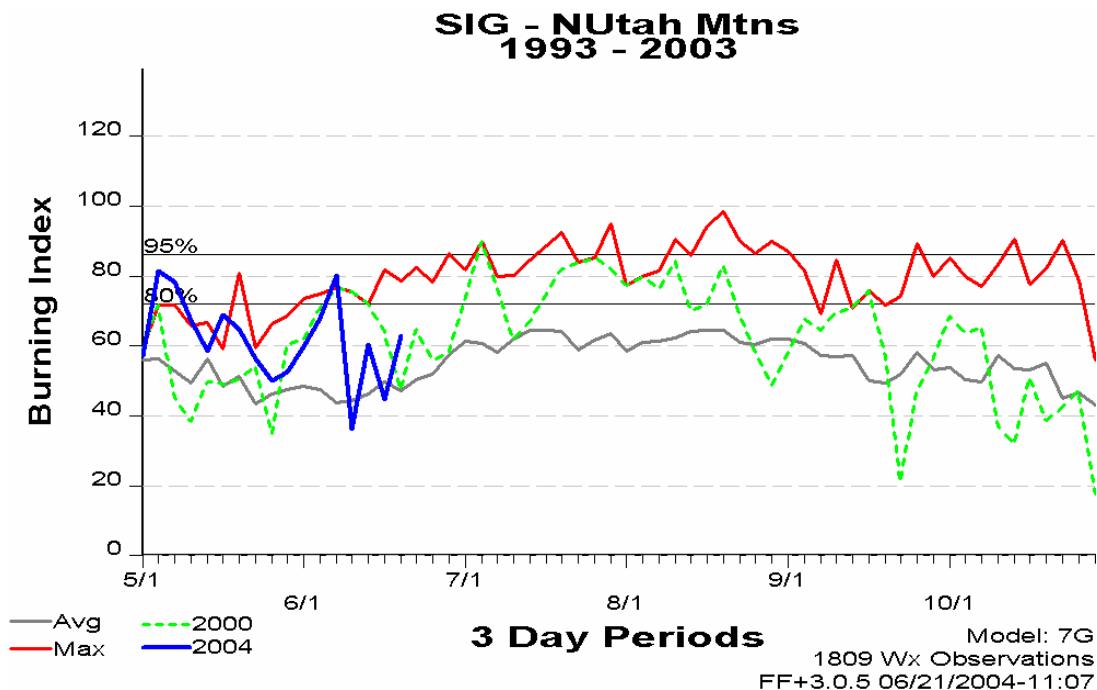
**SIG - NUtah Mtns  
1993 - 2003**



## Burning Index (BI)

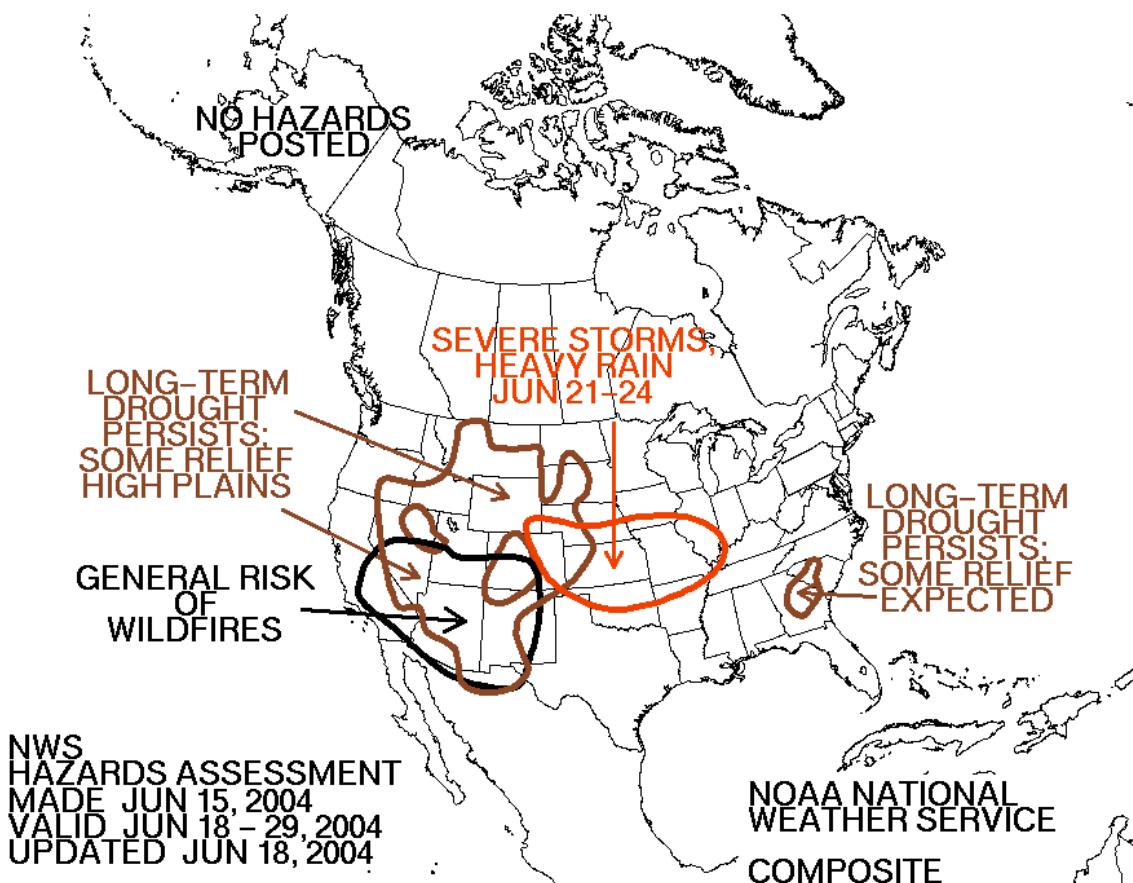


## **Northern Utah Mountains FDRA**

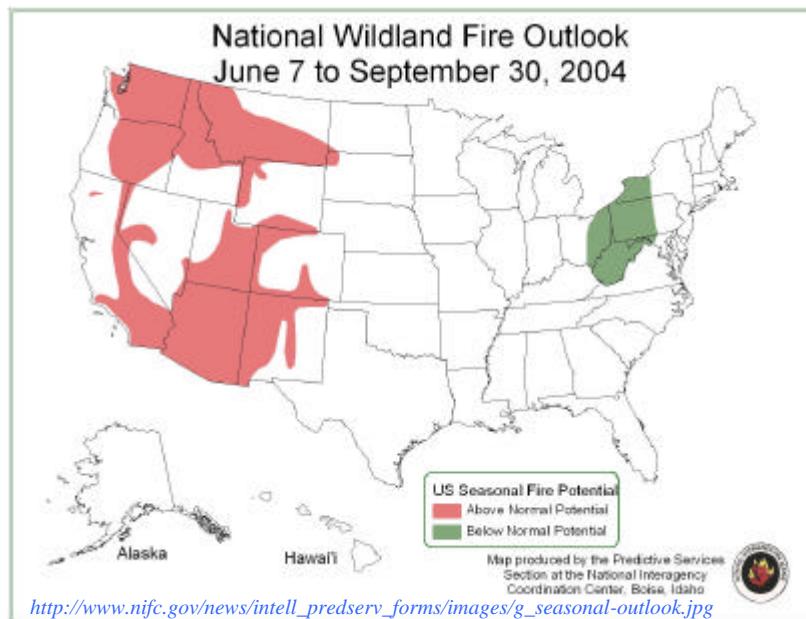


## WILDLAND FIRE OUTLOOK

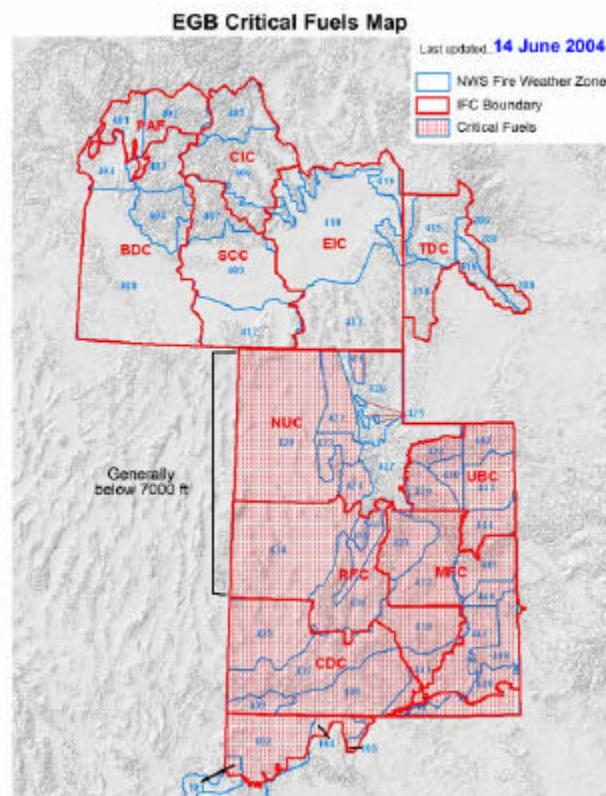
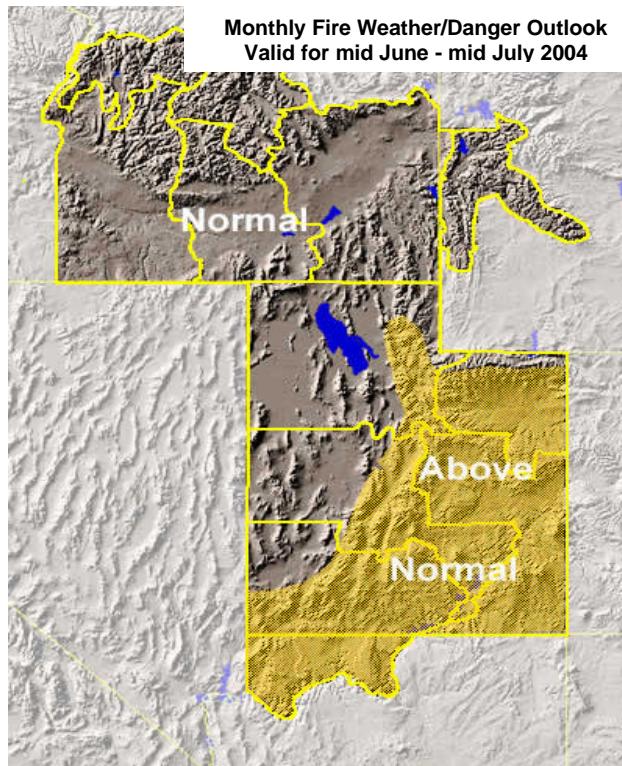
### Hazards Assessment (NWS)



## National Assessment (NICC)



## Eastern Great Basin Coordination Center (EGBCC) Assessment



<http://www-a.blm.gov/utah/egbcc/Reports/monthly.pdf>

[http://www-a.blm.gov/utah/egbcc/fuels\\_map.htm](http://www-a.blm.gov/utah/egbcc/fuels_map.htm)